



**CASTON PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMANS REPORT 2014/15  
MR. JOHN CHAPMAN**

**HIGHWAYS**

We still have our share of pot holes on the village roads and also uneven pavements. After heavy rain water builds up along the road between the Old Dukes Head corner and the Village Hall. In the next 12 months this should be rectified with a new drain to the river which should solve this problem.

**PLANNING**

The big planning issue over the last year has been the development at The White House site. After 3 planning refusals, and despite the Parish Councils and residents objections, Breckland Planning Committee granted permission earlier this year. This will involve the demolition of The White House and the erection of 8 new dwellings on the site with a new entrance over the river.

Two proposed developments outside the village planning envelope were submitted. These were: - An application for 3 detached dwellings along the frontage of Home Farm, Northacre; which was refused permission by Breckland Council but at this present time has gone to Appeal and an application for a development of 8 dwellings opposite The Barns on Attleborough Road. This is awaiting a decision from Breckland Council.

**VILLAGE GREENS**

The grass on The Green and at Coronation Terrace is looking neat and tidy thanks to our grass cutting team. The Village Green will soon have a new notice board made by craftsmen at Great Hockham and a grant has just been awarded to the Parish Council, from Breckland Council, for volunteers to plant spring bulbs along the frontage of Coronation Terrace hedge, under the notice board on The Green, and outside the school.

**FINANCE**

During the last 12 months the Parish Council has made donations to: - The Royal British Legion £20.00; Caston Village Hall insurance £450.00; Watton Citizens Advice Bureau £100.00; Wayland Partnership £100.00; Wayland First Responders £100.00; Norfolk Accident & Rescue £100.00; Caston PCC for the churchyard maintenance fund £450.00; and finally given a donation to the Village Hall Committee towards the refurbishment of and an extension too the Village Hall £8000.00.

## **HOMEWATCH**

Over the last 12 months our village has had very few thefts or burglaries. We must thank our PCSO Tonya Winsley who regularly patrols our village and visits the Friday morning Drop In at the Village Hall to listen to any concerns the villagers have and visiting the school to talk to the children. In October 2014 Parishioners of Caston voted for PCSO Tonya Winsley in the Norfolk Safer Community Awards. Tonya won the award for Police Community Support Officer of the year. I also wish to thank Colin Bearne who co-ordinates the Home Watch Scheme in the village.

## **SPEED WATCH**

The Caston Speed Watch team of 10 volunteers organised by Colin Bearne has been very active over the year. Some motorists are still driving with excessive speed throughout the village. On occasion we have had the loan of a flashing speed sign which Colin places at various points in the village.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

In June Parish Councillor Alan Bunn resigned from the council because he was moving to Suffolk. He had been on the Parish Council since 05.02.2007 and all the Councillors thanked him for his help. It was agreed to wait until the May 2015 elections to fill his seat.

This year sees the four yearly election of a new Parish Council for Caston. Two councillors have decided not to re-stand for the next 4 year term of office, so we say a very big thank to them, for all their hard work and input into the workings of the Parish Council.

Mr. Peter Hall has been a councillor since 02.03.1992 and vice chairman since 01.07.2002.

Mrs Jane Horner has been a councillor since 02.09.2002.

Both have given their time and skills unfailingly to the village, throughout their time on the Parish Council.

## **CHAIRMANS RETIREMENT**

This is my last meeting as a Parish Councillor. I was co-opted onto Caston Parish Council on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1984. In the 31 years and 4 months I have been a parish councillor I have seen many changes in the village with new properties being built and new residents arriving, the village has grown quite considerably. There have also been many events which the Parish Council has been involved with.

In the year after I joined the council we were invited by the Wayland Prison Governor to a conducted tour of the new prison at Griston before the arrival of the inmates.

In 1988 Caston was successful in winning “Best Kept Village” of Norfolk with a population of under 500.

On 13.05.1991 I was elected to position of Parish Council Chairman.

In May 1995 saw the village commemorate V.E. Day which was held on the old school playing field.

1997 saw the opening of our new Church of England Primary School. This was ceremoniously done by the Bishop of Norwich Rev. Peter Nott.

November 1998 the Parish Council sponsored a great Village Bonfire. This was held at the top of the hill at Melsop Farm. This was probably the last event like this in the village due the insurance costs.

The Queens Golden Jubilee village celebration was kindly sponsored by the Parish Council. This was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002 in the old barn at Chase Farm with an invitation to every resident in the village to a free sit down two course meal plus celebration cake, drinks with entertainment for the whole afternoon and on into the night.

10 years later in 2012, with more sponsorship from the Parish Council we all celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee this time on the Village Green with live entertainment and games and food. The Red Lion pub, recently reopened after a major refurbishment, helped to keep things flowing nicely! The Church was decorated with flowers and held tower climbs from where the Jubilee aerial photo of villagers was taken.

Also in 2012 Caston was honoured to win the EDP Pride in Norfolk competition for which Councillor Kay Farmbrough and myself went to County Hall in Norwich, where we were presented with a plaque, which is near the door in the Village Hall, and a cheque for £500.00 to be spent on an item for the benefit of the village, the new solid oak notice board on The Village Green.

During this long period I have had 4 Parish Clerks supporting me - 1 gentlemen and 3 ladies - who have all been wonderful helping me carry out my job as councillor and Chairman.

May I also thank all my fellow council members who have also served with me on the council for many years. I have greatly appreciated their help and support. I wish the new Parish Councillors all the best for the future.

This ends the Chairman's report for 2014/2015

Mr. John Chapman .....  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015